

#### REMARKS

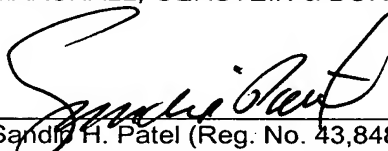
This preliminary amendment is being submitted in connection with the above-identified application's entry into the U.S. national phase pursuant to 35 USC § 371. The preliminary amendment amends the claims to omit multiple dependencies and to better conform to U.S. practice. Specifically, the following claims are amended herein to omit reference in each to multiple claims: 3-8, 11-14, 16, 17, 19, 24, 26, 29, 30, 33, 35, 36, 39, 40, and 44-47. Claims 2 and 14 have been amended to omit recitations redundant to those present in claims from which each depends. Claim 30 has been re-written in independent format. No new matter has been introduced by these claim amendments.

In view of the foregoing amendments, 47 total claims are pending of which only claims 1, 30, and 41 are in independent form. When this application entered the U.S. national phase, the applicants did not supply payment of the governmental fee required for the examination of claims in excess of 20 total claims. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.16(i), submitted herewith is payment in the amount of \$675.00 for the examination of 27 claims in excess of 20 total claims.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form or procedure in an effort to advance this application to allowance, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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